

Supplemental to:

Quarter 1 PIP Item: 2A.2.2: Create plans to improve the frequency of foster parent/relative caretaker notifications of permanency hearings and their right to be heard.

Denise Weider and Toya Nicholson met with Mona Womack and Bruce Linder and developed a plan for the local regional staff to address the right to be heard. This plan is lined out in (part 2).

Mike Cheek, Jim Grace and Tina Webb met with AOC staff and developed a plan for the courts to address the right to be heard (part3).

PIP Item 2A.2.2 Create plans to improve the frequency of foster parent/relative caretaker notifications of permanency hearings and their right to be heard.

As you all know this was submitted during the first quart of our PIP. Each region did a good job developing their plans around this item and put regional protocols in place to insure that this would be done consistently.

We recently received a response from the feds on this Item. They indicated that they felt that we did not address the right to be heard. They have requested that we approach the individual courts and make every attempt to resolve any issues around the right to be heard.

From the state level, Mike and Jim are working with Patrick Yewell to address this using the Model Court and the Civil Rules.

On the regional level, Denise and I met with Bruce and Mona and came up with a plan. This plan will be discussed during the upcoming phone conference on October 13th. The plan is as follows:

1. Each SRA will identify the judges that won't allow foster parents or relative caregivers an opportunity to speak.
2. Once identified, the SRA or Associate meets with the judge to explain the findings of the CFSR, our PIP Item around notification and the right to be heard as well as the expectation that the Feds have for us to address this. If you determine that your judge is not someone who would allow you to address this with them, we would like for you to try to schedule a meeting with the County Attorney to discuss this issue and develop a plan.
3. If none of the above mentioned options are viable for you, contact Mona. Mona and her regional attorney's will approach the judge or the county attorney and try to resolve this issue.

As stated above, we will be joining the first part of your conference call to address any questions you may have.

Right to be Heard Discussion- AOC and DCBS 10.27.10.

Participants: Patrick Yewell, Rachel Bingham, Sara Dent, Mike Cheek, Jim Grace, Tina Webb

Action Needed	Responsible Person	Follow up/ Status
GAL training will incorporate information on the right to be heard (GAL is the legal representative of child)	Deloris Smith	
Model Court will incorporate right to be heard starting with 4 sites and rolling out statewide	J. R. Hopson	
TA request from DPP to Liz Wynn for Bill Stanton	Tina Webb	
A college dedicated to family law issues that include right to be heard could be held*	Sarah Boswell Dent	
KBA regional's and conference could include information on the right to be heard.	Sarah Boswell Dent	
Prosecutor's Advisory Council (PAC) discuss matter at their meeting including status offenders and right to be heard	J. R. Hopson	
Need to explore the current process for Foster Parents to report if they are not given the right to be heard. Involve R&C and Children's Alliance in these process discussions. (Foster Care Council)	Jennie Willson Trevor Hanson	

Clarify information on the DNA 3-6 forms and also a copy of the attorney	Sarah Boswell Dent	
Discuss at the foster parent association the right to be heard	Jennie Willson	
Concurrent planning will be incorporated in model court to result in a consistent practice across the state	J. R. Hopson	